

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of providing delivery information for order-received products to a customer, comprising:

receiving requirement information of products from the customer to a management unit;
providing the customer with shipment guarantee information from said management unit according to product availability information provided by a production management system, which shipment guarantee information includes at least a deliverable volume of said products provisionally allocated to be delivered by an appointed delivery date, according to said requirement information;

receiving formal order-receiving information of the products by the management unit from said customer in response to said shipment guarantee information, the formal order-receiving information including a delivery date which is one of the appointed delivery date or a changed date input by said customer; and

formally allocating a shipment volume for said products corresponding to said shipment guarantee information, by the management unit, based on said received formal order-receiving information wherein the management unit sends an allocation confirmation to the customer and a shipping order to a distribution management system,

wherein if the delivery date is the changed date input by the customer, the management unit sends a notification to the customer if allocating the shipment volume for said products corresponding to said formal order-receiving information is impossible.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of providing delivery information, for order-received products, to a customer according to claim 1, wherein, in said formally allocating, when said provisionally allocated deliverable volume exceeds a shipment volume, a portion of the excess is used for another formal allocation, and when said provisionally allocated deliverable volume falls short in comparison with a formal allocation, a portion of the shortage is allocated to a new formal order-receiving.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of providing delivery information for order-received products to a customer according to claim 1, wherein, in said formally allocating, the shipment guarantee information is deleted on or after a deadline delivery date for receiving said formal order-receiving information which deadline delivery date is calculated from the appointed delivery date included in said shipment guarantee information.

4-6. (CANCELLED).

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium having recorded therein a program for providing a delivery date for order-received products to a customer, the program causing a computer to execute a method comprising:

receiving requirement information of products from the customer to a management unit;
providing the customer with shipment guarantee information from said management unit according to product availability information provided by a production management system, which shipment guarantee information includes at least a deliverable volume of said products provisionally allocated to be delivered by an appointed delivery date according to said requirement information;

receiving formal order-receiving information of the products by the management unit from said customer in response to said shipment guarantee information, the formal order-receiving information including a delivery date which is one of the appointed delivery date or a changed date input by said customer; and

formally allocating a shipment volume for said products by the management unit, shipment volume corresponding to said shipment guarantee information based on said received formal order-receiving information wherein the management unit sends an allocation confirmation to the customer and a shipping order to a distribution management system wherein if the delivery date is the changed date input by the customer, the management unit sends a notification to the customer if allocating the shipment volume for said products corresponding to said formal order-receiving information is impossible.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer readable storage medium as set forth in claim 7, wherein, in said formally allocating, when said provisionally allocated deliverable volume exceeds the shipment volume, a portion of the excess is used for an other formal allocation, and when said provisionally allocated deliverable volume falls short in comparison with formal

allocation, a portion of the shortage is allocated to a new formal order-receiving.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable storage medium as set forth in claim 7, wherein, in said formally allocating, the shipment guarantee information is deleted on or after a deadline delivery date for receiving said formal order-receiving information which deadline delivery date is calculated from the appointed delivery date included in said shipment guarantee information.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A processing unit to provide a delivery date for order-received products to a customer, comprising:

a user-interface to receive requirement information, a change to the requirement information and formal order-receiving information from the customer and to output shipment guarantee information;

an allocation unit to inquire a production manager system on an estimate volume based on the requirement information, to receive from the production manager available product inventories and to generate the shipment guarantee information which includes a delivery date provisionally allocated to a volume of products in response to the requirement information; and

a formal allocation unit to allocate a volume of products of according to the shipment guarantee information and the formal order-receiving information and to send an allocation confirmation to the customer and a shipping order to a distribution management system, wherein the allocation confirmation includes a delivery date that is an appointed delivery date included in the shipment guarantee information or a changed date included in the formal order-receiving information, or the allocation confirmation is a notification of impossibility to allocate a volume of products at the changed date.